

# LONG BEACH RIVERLINK

## CONNECTING CITY TO RIVER



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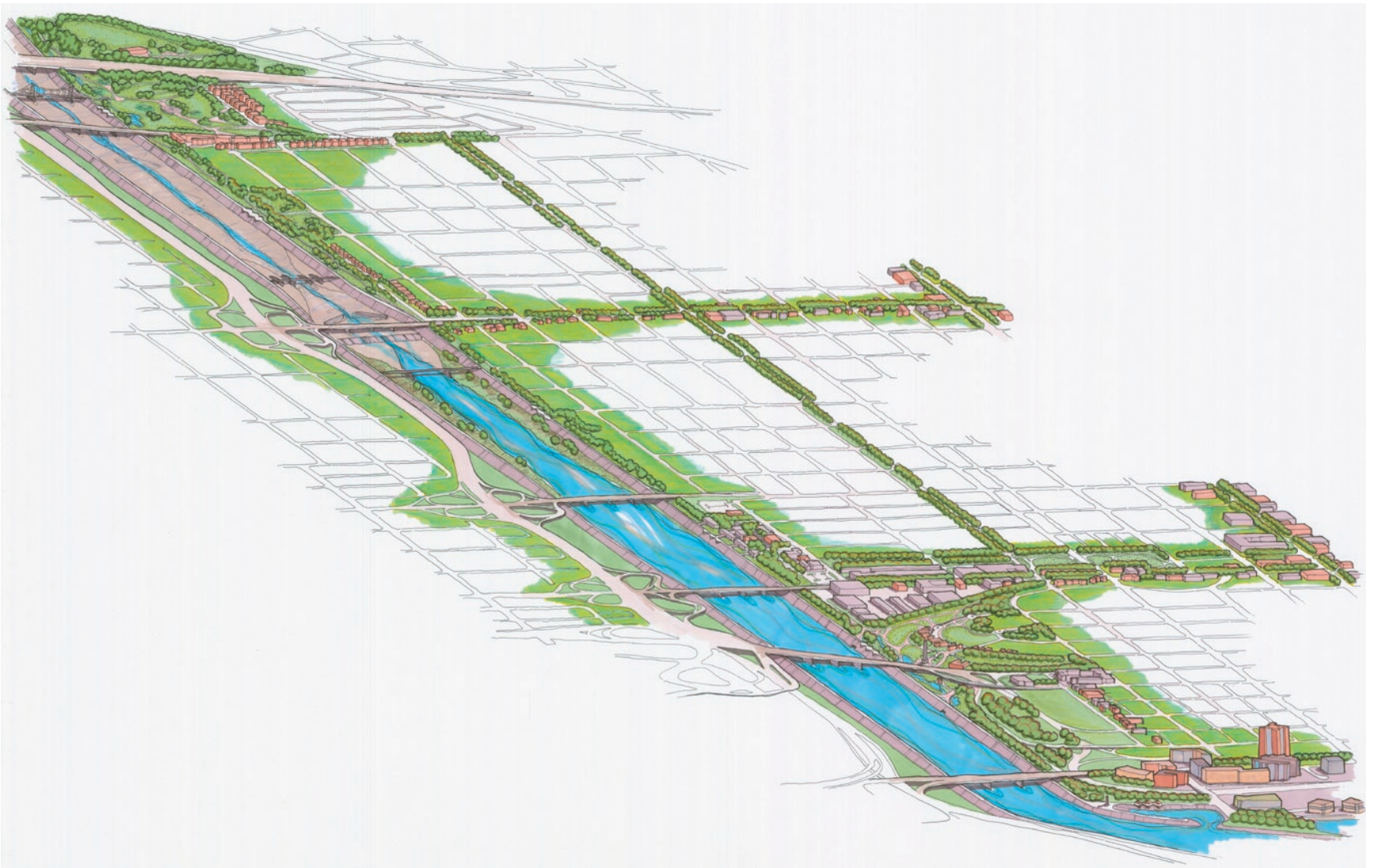
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Appreciation ■ Generosity ■ Support



*Bird's Eye View of RiverLink System in the Westside of Long Beach, California*



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*LONG BEACH RIVERLINK: CONNECTING CITY TO RIVER* PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK FOR the Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine to connect the neighborhoods of the westside of Long Beach, and greater Long Beach with the Los Angeles River. This document will define place, recognize stakeholders, and develop a vision of an integrated open space and riverine system in the westside of Long Beach, California. The study assesses the existing and potential park space in the westside of Long Beach and proposes creative strategies for increasing open space to the citywide goal of eight acres per 1000 people.

A number of key issues currently face the westside of Long Beach. Increasing development has left the city deficient in parks and open space. Most westside of Long Beach neighborhoods suffer from severed connections to downtown amenities and the Los Angeles River, as well as a lack of a strong sense of community identity. Residents lack a connection to the natural environment of the surrounding area, and the existing park spaces are viewed as unsafe. Finally, pollution from current and former industrial activities, as well as vehicular transportation, have resulted in some areas of contamination in the westside of Long Beach.

The RiverLink vision creates a network of gateways, pathways, connections, and destinations. Visitors to the RiverLink system will enter the system through a gateway announcing their arrival into the Los Angeles River system and will travel along a lively, tree-lined pathway. Transit connections will allow visitors to move between pathways on their way to vibrant destination parks lining the river channel, from the San Pedro Bay to the top of the town.

This plan has great potential to link the residents of the westside of Long Beach to open spaces along the river and the natural and cultural heritage of their neighborhoods. However, there is the significant opportunity to apply and expand the framework of this vision to the eastside of Long Beach, as well as to other cities along both the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers, connecting cities to rivers across the Los Angeles basin.

